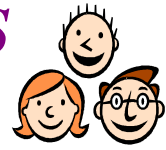




OPENING OF SCHOOL NEWS

Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind
August, 2009



WELCOME MESSAGE

From Nancy Armstrong, Superintendent

Dear Parents,

We look forward to this school year. Our theme this year will be "Continuing Together" which establishes our school for deaf, blind and multiply disabled students ages 2- 22 in the state of Virginia. Students who are deaf, blind and have additional support needs are fully integrated in each school program. We will continue to provide an inclusive environment for all students on the campus.

The campus is taking on a new look as construction is fully underway. A new maintenance building should be completed in September which will allow for the demolition of the existing building to make room for the new middle and high school. The Stuart Building is currently being renovated for a new media center and student center. This building will be completed in February if all goes well, and then the existing Harrison Hall (student center) will be demolished to make room for a new dormitory for students who are blind or visually impaired. Carter dormitory has been demolished and will be the site for the new dormitory for boys who are deaf or hearing impaired. In addition, Peery and Swanson Halls will be renovated to accommodate the elementary and support services. For the next three years, there will be both construction and renovation of existing buildings on campus. Our main focus will be to keep students safe during this face lift as we continue to educate students to meet the challenges of the changing world we live in.

Staff will return on August 11 to get ready for the return of students. We have many exciting educational and recreational activities planned for all students.

As parents, we appreciate your support and look forward to working with you and your student. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call us at 540-332-9000.

Sincerely,

Nancy C. Armstrong, Ed.D.

DON'T FORGET - REGISTRATION DAY IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

1:00 - 4:00 P.M. MAIN HALL

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Students will need to register for school on Sunday, August 23, 2009 from 1 - 4 p.m. in Main Hall. Parents are responsible for transporting students to school on Registration Day. **VSDB receives No Child Left Behind (NCLB) money which provides money for individual tutoring for students who need academic assistance.** There will be a meeting (from 1-4 p.m.) in the Main Hall Board room to explain to all parents how you can request tutoring for your student. In addition, someone will be available to answer questions about how VSDB uses NCLB money to support education and training opportunities. Also, please note the following as you prepare for the opening of school:

1. **All students must have a current physical exam and a current dental exam to enroll.** A form for each must be on file to comply with regulations. Call us if you have questions or need assistance.

2. Please note information from the Business Office concerning student accounts. We suggest that your student's account be established with \$30.00. This will be sufficient money to cover personal needs, spending money, etc. for the first few weeks of the year.
3. Parents may call the school by dialing 1-540-332-9046 or 1-800-522-8732 for information or to leave a message for your student or his/her dorm supervisor. If the call is answered by a TDD machine for the hearing impaired, please use a TDD to respond, or if you do not have a TDD, please make your call using the Virginia Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1.
4. **If changes have occurred in the address/telephone number information we currently have on file, please inform us by mail or phone. It is very important we keep this information current at all times!**
5. Please carefully review the 2009-2010 school calendar, and retain it for future reference.

Students will be returning home **all** weekends, beginning the weekend of August 28th. Transportation for all residential students will be provided by VSDB. Students will leave school at 12:00 noon and will be dropped off at predetermined points on each route. Students will be picked up at prearranged times and places. A bus schedule will be given to you at registration. Please note that each student will receive lunch prior to departing on homegoing weekends.

We hope you have had a pleasant summer and that you and your student are looking forward to the coming school year. As always, we want to have open communication with you so we can understand your needs and those of your student. Should you have questions between now and August 23rd, please feel free to call the school at 540-332-9000.

BUSINESS OFFICE INFORMATION

We strongly recommend that all deposits be made directly to the Business Office at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind; Attention: Cashier; Post Office Box 2069; Staunton, Virginia 24402-2069 either by mail or in person. This greatly reduces the possibility of lost funds or errors in the handling of funds being made. It also speeds up the crediting of funds to your student's account. If you do choose to send cash with students for spending, please give them small bills. VSDB keeps minimal cash on hand, and cannot always change larger bills for students.

If, in the event you do find it necessary to turn over money to someone other than the Business Office Cashier, please be sure to ask for a receipt. This is proof that you have given the money to VSDB on your student's behalf. Please make a note on your check indicating how the money will be used (example: spending, activities, etc.).

All persons who are authorized to receive this money for the school will have receipt books available. If you have questions on student deposits or your student's account, please call us at (540) 332-9040. The Business Office will have a table at registration to collect money and distribute new policies.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a packet of forms to be completed and returned to the school on Registration Day. The forms to return are listed below:

- **Student Spending Account Restricted Limit Form**, to be completed and returned by all residential students (pink form).
- **School Lunch Program Applications**, to be completed and returned by day students only (yellow form).
- **Return Check Policy** (blue).



AN IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM THE INFIRMARY



Earlier in the summer, you received a packet of medical information and forms to be completed on your student. Please be sure to return all completed forms and requested information to the nurse on Registration Day on August 23rd. Regulations require that all residential students have annual physical exams and dental forms on file indicating completion. Day students must have a physical every three years, unless they are participating in sports, which require a yearly physical exam. Day students must provide at least one dental report upon entering VSDB. If you do not mail or bring the completed physical and dental forms, you are risking your student being returned home until it is completed. Also, if your student requires an immunization, be sure this is completed and documentation provided to the nurse on Registration Day. This year all girls going into the 6th grade are recommended to take the HPV/Human Papilloma Virus vaccine which is a series of 3 shots over a six month period of time. Again the HPV vaccine is only a recommendation, not a requirement. However, parents are required to sign a form that they have received and reviewed information about the HPV vaccine. For teenagers who have not had a tetanus booster in five years, please ask your health care provider to administer the Tdap (which contains tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis) vaccine. All children ages 12 years or older should consider taking the meningococcal vaccine. Children over 12 months of age should consider the Hepatitis A vaccine which is a series of two shots over a six month period. All medications (including over the counter medications) must be brought in a pharmacy labeled bottle or their original medication container. A medication permission form signed by your student's physician and the parent must also be provided. Your help with these matters will help insure the health and well being for your student.

Your help with these matters will insure a smooth school start!

Thank you!

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

The Environmental Protection Agency requires VSDB to provide annual notification to parents to inform them of current asbestos related activities on our campus. This is to inform you that there is asbestos on our campus that is maintained in a safe condition, and inspected regularly. A brochure from the EPA states the following: *Asbestos-containing materials (ACM) that are in good condition and not disturbed can be very safe. In fact, EPA recommends that ACM in good condition be left in place, and properly maintained rather than removed.*

The inspection reports are filed in the Operations Office. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Marvin Mahler at 540-332-9064.

STUDENT LIFE INFORMATION

Mary Murray, Student Life Director

DORMITORY NEWS:

We are excited to start the first phase of our construction project. Carter Hall will be demolished this summer/fall so that a new dormitory can be built in its place. To accommodate this we will make the following changes: students in the Deaf Department will be housed:

Price Hall Top – Deaf boys grades 1-7
Price Hall Basement – Deaf boys grades 8 & 9
Bass Hall 3rd Floor – Deaf boys grades 10 – 12
Watts Hall Top – Deaf girls grades 11 & 12
Watts Basement – Deaf girls grades 1 – 10

We will continue to have the Blind students in Battle Hall.

DRESS CODE

Students are not permitted to wear clothing with pictures or print related to drugs, sex, violence, or profanity and vulgar language. We also require student's attire to cover underwear items. The inseam of shorts needs to be at least three inches and no baggy pants that fall below the waist line. Low riding pants (baggy pants) are not permitted. See Handbook for more specifics on the dress code.

TOBACCO USE

VSDB is a tobacco free environment. Smoking and the use of other tobacco products prohibited. This includes visitors, staff, and students.

VISITATION

Any student wishing to visit another student's home on the weekend must have both **written permission** from the parent of the home to be visited and **written permission** from his/her parent to visit. The students are responsible for obtaining the "Permission to Visit" forms from SLO. Students **will not** be granted permission by a telephone call. Please be aware that VSDB is not responsible for the students during the time they are visiting other students' homes and the presence of the visitation form does not mean that VSDB supports the visit. If you have **ANY** questions concerning a specific visit, please call the Director of Student Life at 540-332-9046.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

The student handbook has been updated and will be distributed at registration. Any comments and/or discussion can be done during that time. Parents are required to sign a form indicating they understand information in the handbook that they receive.

TAKE-OUT FOOD

Students again will be permitted to order take-out food in the evenings in accordance with procedures outlined in the Student Handbook. The cafeteria staff works hard to provide nutritious meals to the students and we will continue to stress the importance of balanced meals as opposed to "fast foods". Please be aware that we do not "encourage" students to frequently order take-out food and consider it a privilege.

Snacks: Students may bring snacks to eat during the evening hours. Recommended items: juice boxes, cup of soup, crackers, yogurt, pudding cups, etc. Please provide a plastic container with a lid to keep the items organized and fresh.

E-MAIL/CELL PHONES/PAGERS/SIDE KICKS

Dormitory computers are for homework use. Students do have access to the Internet or e-mail in the dormitories. Each student has their personal VSDB account. Students may have cell phones or pagers/side kicks during dormitory hours. These devices are not permitted during school hours. **The use of video cameras is not permitted in school or in the dormitories.** If students fail to follow these rules, devices may be confiscated and returned to parents on homegoing weekends.

Please Note: Students bringing items such as communication devices, radios, stereos, video games, jewelry and other valuable items will be responsible for them. The school will not take responsibility for the breakage or loss of such items. Refrigerators will not be permitted in individual rooms.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Student Life Office at 540-332-9046. Thank you. We are looking forward to a great year!

CLOTHING/PERSONAL ITEM LISTING

We would like to suggest that you use the following list as a guide as you prepare your list of clothing and personal items to send with your student when she/he returns to school in the fall. We have many dormitory activities planned this year and, because students will be going home most weekends, time for these activities is limited. Therefore, laundry will be brought home on the weekends and it will be the parents' and students' responsibility to launder clothes at home. Of course, any clothes that cannot be laundered at home can still be done at school. Please try and provide your child with a sturdy suitcase to transport his/her belongings. It makes it much easier when loading and unloading the buses and helps eliminate loss and confusion.

We recommend students to bring a fan, comforter, pillows and any items to make his/her room comfortable.

CLOTHING - PERSONAL ITEM LIST

Personal Items	Seasonal Items	Clothing*
<i>Shampoo</i>	<i>Warm Jacket</i>	<i>9 Pair Underwear</i>
<i>Deodorant</i>	<i>Hat</i>	<i>9 Pair Socks</i>
<i>Toothbrush/Paste</i>	<i>Gloves</i>	<i>2 or More Pair Shoes</i>
<i>Comb/Brush</i>	<i>Boots</i>	<i>Bathing Suit</i>
<i>Body Lotion</i>	<i>Raincoat</i>	<i>Beach Towel</i>
<i>Large Suitcase</i>	<i>Umbrella</i>	<i>Slippers</i>
<i>Face Wash</i>		<i>Flip Flops</i>
<i>Bathing net scrubby</i>		<i>2 Pair Pajamas</i>
<i>*Clothing: In addition to Standard Items.</i>		

DEAF AND BLIND DEPARTMENT EDUCATION INFORMATION

Jack Johnson, Principal, Deaf Department

Carol Swindell, Assistant Principal, Blind Department

Dear Parents/Guardians:

You place a lot of faith in VSDB by sending your student to school here, sometimes hundreds of miles away from home. We know that you expect an excellent, high-quality education, and we believe we can provide that. We also know that you expect your student to be safe and healthy, in an environment where everyone cares about every student. We believe that the campus of VSDB is a safe and healthy place, both for students and staff. We hope you agree with us that a quality education and a safe and healthy environment for children are the highest priorities at VSDB.

We look forward to the opportunities of the 2009-2010 school year! With your involvement, we can make our program as effective as possible. We are pleased and excited that your student will continue their education at VSDB. For all, we wish a continued pleasant and fulfilling summer.

Reports to You: We will have mid-quarter and end-of-quarter reports delivered to you. We trust you will discuss these reports with your student and either write or call the teachers or administrative staff with any questions/suggestions you may have. All of our teachers/support personnel may be reached through Mrs. Diane Eckstein in the Deaf Department at 540-332-9051 or Mrs. Paula Hoal in the Blind Department at 540-332-9014, or through our toll-free number, 1-800-522-VSDB.

Grades: VSDB continues to search for ways to promote excellence and challenge our students more. Our present policy is that students in the Middle School and High School who receive one failing grade on their report cards at the end of any quarter will be ineligible to represent VSDB in sports and/or extra-curricular activities for the following quarter. Students who are not performing well in school will meet with the academic review team and be given every assistance and opportunity to improve their grades. If a student is failing, parents will be notified in ample time so we can work together to help prevent failure.

Attendance: It is imperative that you send your student to school unless of illness. Attendance is very important and once a student is behind, it takes weeks to catch up their work. Please do not keep your student home for an entire week. There have been times in the past when students have stayed home to go on vacation at different times due to siblings in different schools. We ask that you follow our schedule and make doctor visits close to early release days or on holidays when you know your student will be home.

Your student needs to be here daily to get the proper education and be successful in school.

Dress Code:

VSDB staff is to encourage all students to dress comfortably and in good taste and adhere to these guidelines:

1. Students will not be allowed to wear certain clothing items:
 - A. Clothing with vulgar or profane language written on it.
 - B. Clothing with pictures or print related to drugs, sex, and violence.
 - C. Clothing perceived by staff as sexually provocative or gang related.

Examples: skimpy short-shorts, see-through blouses, bare midriffs, clothing with holes or cuts so as to show provocative body parts.

D. **No baggy pants will be permitted.**

2. Shorts must have an inseam of at least three inches.
3. The shoulder strap on girls' tank tops should conceal undergarments. (at least 2 finger widths)
4. Students must remove head coverings and sunglasses when entering classrooms and the cafeteria. Students with IEP statements will be exempt.
5. Students who go to school with inappropriate clothing will be given clothing in school so they can change. The time missed from school will affect the daily grade and is time they will be required to make up in detention hall.
6. **Elementary School:** Elementary students will be permitted to wear summer shorts and sandals, weather permitting; (i.e. in the spring and fall) if the weather forecasts temperatures in the 60s, then they may wear them to school. Morning program assistants and houseparents will be responsible for checking the forecast.
7. **Middle and High School:** Students must follow the dress code, and will have no restrictions unless a student is making choices that are adversely affecting his/her health.

Staff reserve the right to request a student to change their clothing if they feel it is inappropriate. Consultation with administration/behavior staff is utilized to mediate differences.

Pagers, Cellular Phones, Radios, etc.:

Pagers, cellular phones, radios, walkman/CD players, sidekicks and other electronic devices may not be used in school during school hours. Any device used during school will result in it being held in the office and returned to the student after school. Repeated occurrences will result in loss of privileges for a specified time.

School Supply List, Blind Department

Following is a list of supplies for this school year, 2009-2010 that should be purchased for your student. Please mark all supplies with your student's name.

All Students: One large 3 ring binder; 2 sets of subject dividers; 1 zippered pencil pouch for binder with 3 rings; 4-pack of AA batteries; backpack (no rolling backpacks, due to safety); luggage or other homegoing bags identified with their name and bus number.

Print Users: black medium point ball point pens or medium tip felt pens and unique tactual marker on key chain.

Cane Users: cane, identified with student's name (required for all cane users on campus).

School Supply List, Deaf Department

Enclosed is a list of supplies that should be purchased for your student this school year, 2009-2010. We have listed the supplies by school level (i.e. Elementary, Middle, High). Please mark all the supplies with your student's name. Thank you very much!

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

Superintendent's Office	540-332-9000
Admission's Office	540-332-9004
Student Life Office.....	540-332-9046
Business Office	540-332-9040
Principal's Office, Deaf Department.....	540-332-9051
Assistant Principal's Office, Blind Department	540-332-9014
Infirmery Office	540-332-9026/9027
Toll Free Number	800-522-VSDB

2009/2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The 2009/2010 school calendar is on the following pages. Please keep this calendar in a handy location, and refer to it often.

There may be times during the school year that students will be sent home for incumbent weather or other emergency situations. It is important that the school be able to contact parents at all times. Please keep your phone numbers current so we can contact you.



**Enjoy your remaining time this summer!!
We look forward to seeing you again
On Sunday, August 23rd!**

VSDB-Staunton 2009/2010 School Calendar

2009

August 7	New Staff Orientation, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
August 10	Opening of School Staff Meeting, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
August 10 - 14	Facility Staff Workdays
August 17 - 21	All Staff Workdays
August 23 (Sunday).....	Student Registration, 1 - 4 p.m., Faculty Staff Workday, 12 - 3 p.m.; Parent Meeting, 12 Noon
August 24 (Monday).....	Classes Begin
August 28, 29, 30	Homegoing Weekend - All Students Go Home
September 3, 4, 5, 6.....	Extended Homegoing Weekend - All Students Go Home
September 4 (Friday).....	Faculty/Classified Staff Workday
September 6	Students Return from Extended Weekend
September 11, 12, 13.....	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
September 18, 19, 20.....	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
September 23.....	Middle First Quarter
September 25, 26, 27.....	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
October 2, 3, 4.....	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
October 9, 10, 11.....	Homegoing Weekend - All Students Go Home
October 16, 17, 18.....	Homegoing Weekend - All Students Go Home
October 23, 24, 25.....	Homegoing Weekend - All Students Go Home
October 26.....	End of First Quarter
October 29, 30, 31, Nov. 1	Extended Homegoing Weekend - All Students Go Home (Students Depart on Thursday)
October 30 (Friday).....	Faculty/Classified Staff Workday
November 1	Students Return from Extended Weekend
November 6, 7, 8	Homegoing Weekend - All Students Go Home
November 13, 14, 15.....	Homegoing Weekend - All Students Go Home
November 20 (Friday)	Students Depart for Thanksgiving Break
November 23 – 27	All Staff and Students Off
November 23, 24, 25 (4 hours).....	Classified Staff Must Use Leave
November 25 (4 hours), 26, 27.....	HOLIDAY
November 29 (Sunday).....	Students Return from Thanksgiving Break
December 2	Middle Second Quarter
December 4, 5, 6	Homegoing Weekend - All Students Go Home
December 11, 12, 13	Homegoing Weekend - All Students Go Home
December 18 (Friday)	Students Depart for Winter Holiday
December 21, 22, 23	Classified Staff Must Use Leave
December 24 - 31	HOLIDAY

2010

January 1	HOLIDAY
January 3 (Sunday).....	Students Return From Winter Break
January 8, 9, 10	Homegoing Weekend – All students Go Home
January 15, 16, 17	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
January 19	End of Second Quarter
January 21, 22, 23, 24	Extended Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home (Students Depart on Thursday)
January 22	Faculty/Classified Staff Workday
January 24 (Sunday).....	Students Return From Extended Weekend
January 29, 30, 31	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
February 5, 6, 7.....	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
February 12, 13, 14.....	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
February 18, 19, 20, 21.....	Extended Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home (Students Depart on Thursday)
February 19.....	HOLIDAY
February 21 (Sunday)	Students Return From Extended Weekend

February 23.....	Middle Third Quarter
February 26, 27, 28	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
March 5, 6, 7	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
March 12, 13, 14	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
March 19, 20, 21	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
March 25	End of Third Quarter
March 25, 26, 27, 28	Extended Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home (Students Depart on Thursday)
March 26	Faculty/Classified Staff Workday
March 28 (Sunday).....	Students Return From Extended Weekend
April 2	Students Depart for Spring Break
April 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	HOLIDAY, All Staff and Students Off
April 8, 9	Classified Staff Must Use Leave
April 11 (Sunday).....	Students Return from Spring Break
April 16, 17, 18	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
April 23, 24, 25	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
April 30, May 1, 2.....	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
May 4	Middle Fourth Quarter
May 7, 8, 9	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
May 14, 15, 16	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
May 21, 22, 23	Homegoing Weekend – All Students Go Home
May 28, 29, 30	Homegoing Weekend - All Students Go Home
June 4 (Friday)	End of Fourth Quarter; Graduation; Students Depart for Summer Vacation
June 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,	Faculty Staff Workdays
June 8, 9	10 Month Staff Workdays
June 14 (8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)	Faculty Staff Workday